

**From:** Cortney Collia [<mailto:ccollia@naturecenter.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015 4:14 PM

**To:** Senate Majority Committee Clerks

**Subject:** Gray Wolf Testimony

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that the Senate Natural Resources Committee will be taking testimonies on Wednesday in regards to the recent decision to return wolves to the endangered species list. Due to my inability to attend this hearing I will submit my thoughts here in writing.

First I would like to submit information I have found by my own research. In any given year the state of Michigan has around 1,120,000 head of cattle. Around 20 livestock animals are killed per year due to predators. This past year this number went up to 26. I am not including missing animals in this number as missing does not guarantee anything. Then 64,200 of these livestock were killed by non predators this is 5.7%. Now to be honest I am not clear on what non predators means. Were they slaughtered? Did they die of old age? Were they killed by one another? I could not say. But the important thing to take away from this is that out of 1,120,000 head of cattle only 26 have been killed by predators, this is .002% of all cattle. Now even if you bowl that number down to 50,000 head of cattle in the upper peninsula you still only end up with 0.05% of your cattle being effected by predators. The population of wolves in Michigan is at around 666 including those on Isle Royale. Out of 666 individuals trying to eat every day only 26 of our livestock were taken. That is an amazing statistic. You know the facts on the wolf population and what it is doing as does the federal government which is why they chose to place the Wolves back on the Endangered Species act.

The Senate Resolution No. 7 is simply not necessary. Though these creatures may have come back from near extinction they are not so abundant as to need any sort of Management.

Logic must balance with emotion. Though it is mentally distressing to lose our livestock to predators it is logically disturbing to manage a species who does not warrant it through any factual evidence.

Thank you for your time.

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**Cortney Collia**